

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 14, and 43. Claims 19, 37-42, and 44-72 were previously withdrawn. Thus, the pending claims are claims 1-18, 20-36, and 43, of which claims 1, 14, and 43 are in independent form.

Claims 1-5, 10, 14-18, 20-22, 32, 33, 35, 36, and 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Barath (U.S. Pat. No. 5,196,024). Claim 1, as amended, recites a balloon having a first material and a second material surrounded by the first material. Independent claim 14, as amended, recites a balloon having a first material and a striped portion surrounded by the first material. Independent claim 43, as amended, recites a balloon formed from a tube having a striped portion surrounded by a first material. Barath fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of Applicants' claims.

Barath discloses a balloon 2 on which a metallic plate 13 is mounted. A metallic cutting edge 6 is attached to the metallic plate 13. See, e.g., Barath, FIGS. 7 and 8. The cutting edge 6 can be used to produce sharp longitudinal cuts in the luminal surface of a vessel upon inflation of the balloon within the vessel. In some embodiments, a plastic casing 15 on which the metallic plate 13 and cutting edge 6 are arranged is positioned about the circumference of the balloon 2. See, e.g., Barath, FIGS. 9 and 10. In such embodiments, the metallic plate 13 and the casing 15 are not part of the balloon. Rather, the casing 15 is positioned around the balloon 2 at a spaced apart distance from the balloon 2, and the metallic plate 13 is attached to the casing 15. In certain embodiments, the metallic plate 13, on which the cutting edge 6 is arranged, is mounted on the balloon 2, and a protective sheath 17 covers the balloon 2. See, e.g., Barath, FIGS. 12 and 13. The protective sheath 17 is not part of the balloon 2. Rather, the protective sheath 17 is positioned about the balloon at a spaced apart distance from the balloon 2. Thus, Barath does not disclose a balloon having a first material and a second material (or striped portion) surrounded by the first material, as claimed.

Therefore, Applicants request that the above rejections be withdrawn.

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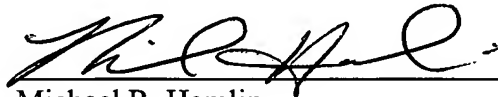
Claims 6-9, 11-13, 23-31, and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barath. For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claim 43 has been objected to for depending on a non-elected claim. Applicants have rewritten claim 43 in independent form, and therefore request that the objection be withdrawn.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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